

5 APR 1950

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GENERAL

1. Developments on Hong Kong aircraft--US Ambassador Douglas in London has been informed by the British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs that there will shortly be full ministerial consideration of the question of the aircraft held in Hong Kong to decide what action the UK can take with respect to disposal of the aircraft. The Minister commented that the UK is "between the devil and the deep blue sea" in this matter, but assured Douglas that advance notice would be given the US before releasing the planes to the Chinese Communists.

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EUROPE

2. BELGIUM: Leopold's position unchanged--US Ambassador Murphy in Brussels has learned that King Leopold has not changed his original position that he will let Parliament decide whether he will return to rule. Murphy expressed the opinion that the Regent may either: (a) call on the Catholics to form a one-party government to restore Leopold to the throne; or (b) dissolve the Parliament and return the issue to the electorate. Murphy comments that a one-party (Catholic) government could probably be formed for the purpose of returning Leopold to the throne, but only with "considerable private misgivings" among Catholic leaders.

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